

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 29 and 34-36; and claims 28 and 30-32 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 29 and 34-36 are pending in the application.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the conditional allowance of claims 29 and 34-36. Claims 29 and 35-36 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of their base claim 28. Claim 34 has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of its base claim 30.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)


The Examiner rejected claims 28 and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakajou, et al. (US 5,783,998). The Applicants have canceled claims 28 and 30-32.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe claims 29 and 34-36 to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 29 and 34-36.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 12-2-05

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